



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

California Division

June 5, 2018

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 498-5001
(916) 498-5008 (fax)

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Mr. Bruce de Terra
Chief, Division of Transportation Programming
California Department of Transportation, M.S. 82
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 92814

Attention: Muhaned Aljabiry, Chief

SUBJECT: MCAG MPO 2017 FTIP/FSTIP AMENDMENT NO. 13

Dear Mr. de Terra:

We have completed our review of Amendment No. 13 to the Merced County Association of Governments' (MCAG) 2017 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (2017 FTIP) that was submitted with your letter dated May 24, 2018. Amendment No. 13 to the MCAG 2017 FTIP was approved on May 17, 2018, by MCAG Board Resolution No. 2018/05-17-01. This MCAG FTIP amendment proposes the modification of four grouped project listings that were previously approved for inclusion in the 2017 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (2017 FSTIP), and the addition of three new grouped project listings to the MPO's 2017 FTIP and the State's 2017 FSTIP.

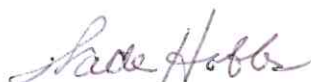
Pursuant to the February 14, 2018, *Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX, and the Federal Highway Administration, California Division*, we accept the proposed modifications to the 2017 FSTIP for the MCAG region in accordance with the *Final Rule on Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning* that was published in the Federal Register on May 27, 2016. We find that the MCAG 2017 FTIP including Amendment No. 13 was developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the metropolitan planning provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134, and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by Public Law 114-94, the "*Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act*" (FAST Act).

We have determined that the FSTIP modifications proposed by this amendment are exempt from the regional emissions analysis requirements pursuant to the transportation conformity provisions found in 40 CFR Part 93. This finding has been coordinate with Region 9 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *National Memorandum of Understanding between DOT and EPA on Transportation Conformity*, dated April 25, 2000. Therefore, we find that the MCAG 2017 FTIP, including Amendment No. 13, continues to conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality.

This approval is provided with the understanding that the funding approval on the individual projects contained in the FSTIP are subject to grantees meeting all necessary federal administrative requirements, and that approval of this programming action does not provide a federal eligibility determination for any project funding source included in this amendment.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning our approval for this MCAG 2017 FTIP/FSTIP amendment, please contact Wade Hobbs (wade.hobbs@dot.gov) of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5027.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wade Hobbs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wade Hobbs
Statewide Transportation Coordinator
Federal Highway Administration